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Grange
of ILLINOIS

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Grange of ILLINOIS

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PUBLISHED BY
HINCKLEY & SCHMITT
CHICAGO
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The United States had emerged successfully from World War I, and the population had settled down to peacetime living. Free from the strains and the restrictions of war, the people relaxed. It was natural that entertainment should become an attraction. Athletic events supplied the most entertainment for the greatest number of people. Great athletic figures appeared on the scene—Jack Dempsey, Babe Ruth, Bill Tilden, Bobby Jones, and many others. The vigor and spectacle of thrilling college football caught the fancy of every one.

The excitement was contagious. Colleges and universities that before the war attracted 16,000 to 18,000 spectators at big games began to receive requests for tickets in unheard of numbers. It naturally followed that the demand precipitated the building of big stadiums. Up to this time there were only a few of the great universities that possessed a stadium of large seating capacity. Soon the college campuses from coast to coast became studded with beautiful structures for athletic events, and especially for football.

Radio had developed to a point where it was no longer a device for experts but a practical home appliance. Some of the most imaginative announcers attempted to use it as a means to describe sporting events to the public. The college football game was, consequently, brought to the living room of every one who owned a radio. College football received a tremendous impetus of popularity and the games were widely broadcast.

Along with this unprecedented wave of enthusiasm in athletics were born the synthetic alumni. All over the country people who had never seen a college football game and who had no college connection whatsoever became interested in the progress or fortune of some particular college football team. They traveled for long distances to see college games. Heretofore, college football was reserved for college people. Now for the first time the colleges looked upon the public as a new means of support.

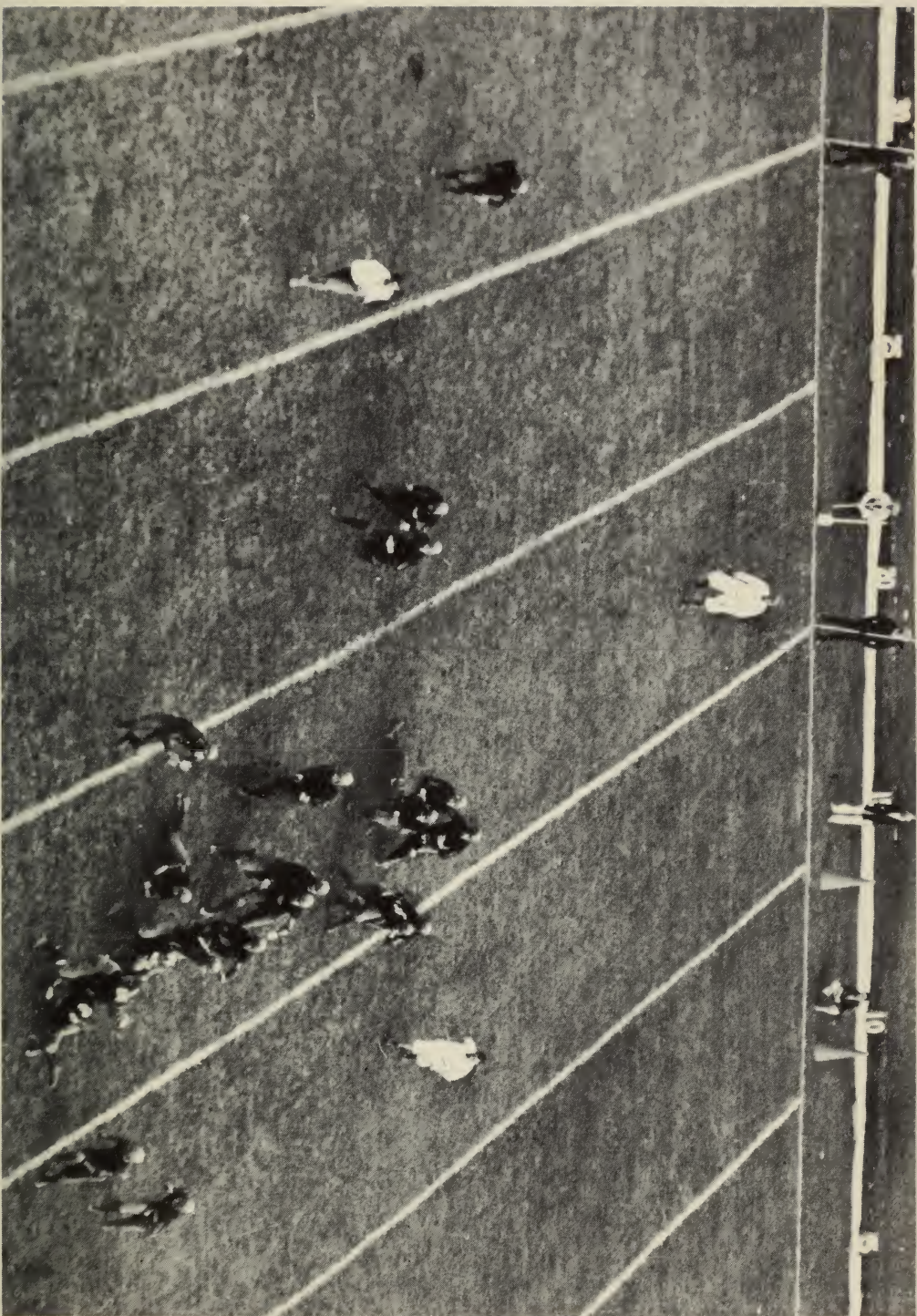


The country was prosperous. There was optimism everywhere, and college football entered an era the like of which its founders never dreamed. Upon this stage at a dramatic moment stepped the most sensational football player of all time—Red Grange of Illinois.

Harold Grange was born in Forksville, Pennsylvania, on June 13, 1903. Harold had two sisters and a brother, Garland. Forksville was a lumber town and Harold's father, Lyle Grange, was a lumber camp foreman. When Harold was five years old, his mother died. Lyle Grange packed up the family and brought them to Wheaton, Illinois, where his four brothers and one sister resided. The care and management of the children was a problem. Lyle Grange decided it was best to send the little girls back to Pennsylvania to live with their mother's people. His sister was able to help with the care of Harold and Garland until she became Dean of Women at Houghton College. Later he employed a housekeeper, but after a time he and the two boys moved in with a bachelor brother.

About the time Harold reached eighth grade, he went to live with his uncle on a farm near Wheaton for a year. Harold learned to do the typical boy's chores on a farm, including milking cows, caring for the horses, and driving the milk wagon to town. During this experience he acquired a love for horses that he never forgot.

Harold's childhood in Wheaton was typical of boys in any neighborhood. He learned to play baseball and football on the vacant lots, and he learned to play basketball in an old barn. He ran races at church picnics and also participated in field events. When Harold entered Wheaton High School in 1918, he, his father, and brother were living in a five-room apartment over one of the stores in the business district of the town. Lyle Grange was the Police Department of Wheaton and received a very modest salary. There was no money for frivolous things or luxuries and barely enough for the necessities of the family. It was necessary for the boys to have jobs and, consequently, during the summer Harold worked as an iceman, an occupation that he later made famous.



GRANGE CARRYING BALL

MELWAIN IN FRONT OF GRANGE. BRITTON BLOCKING THE END.







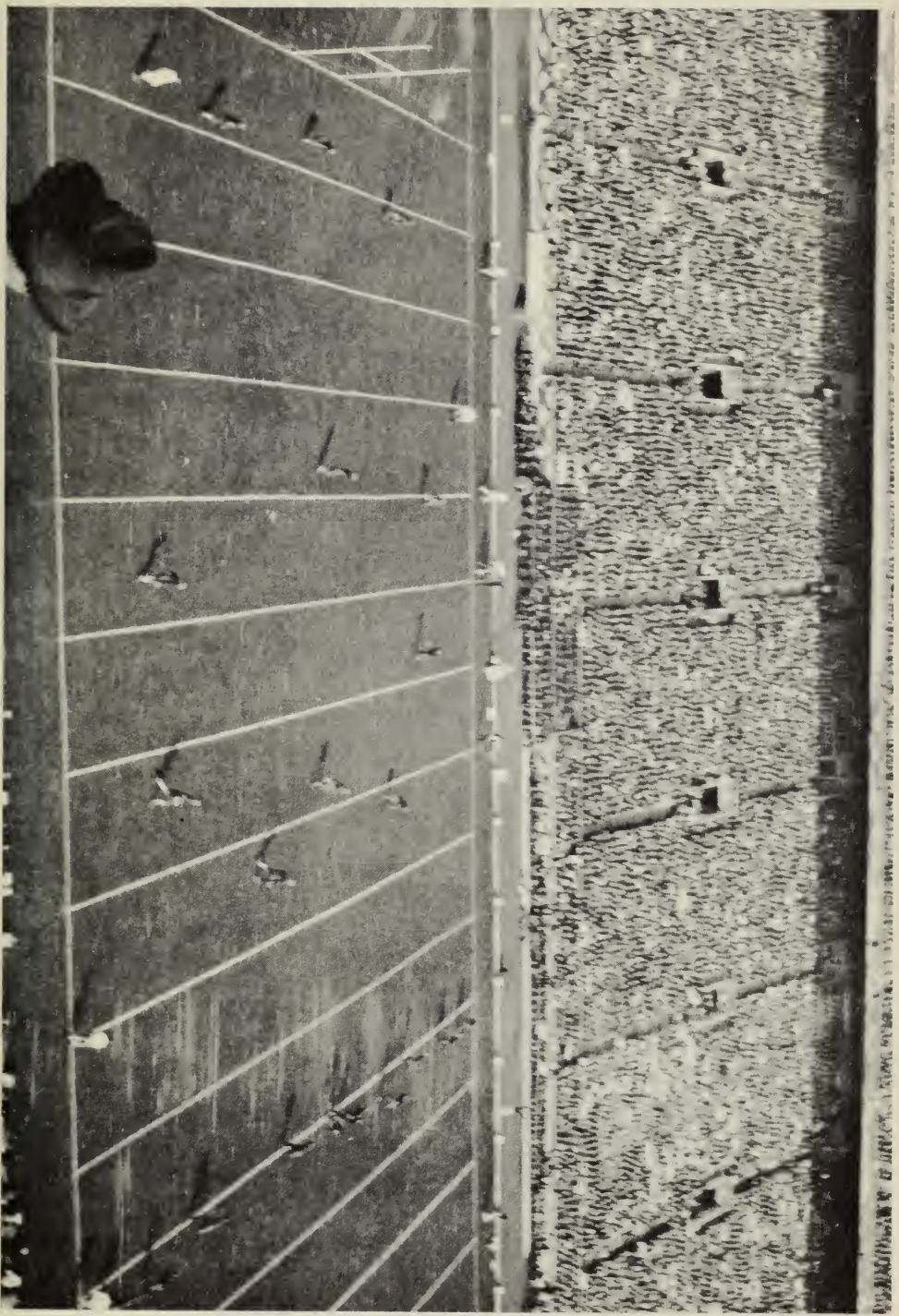
At Wheaton High School Harold went out for football. Upon learning that there was a vacancy, he presented himself as a right end. He played right end all that season and strangely enough there were no passes thrown to him during the games. In the last game of the season, the kickoff happened to come to him, and he ran nearly 70 yards for a touchdown. His teammates told him that he should be in the backfield, and thus encouraged, he applied as a halfback the next season, and he soon became the regular left halfback.

During his sophomore year at Wheaton High School, he scored 99 points, made 15 touchdowns, and kicked 9 points after touchdowns. He found that football was natural for him and that in addition to his ability to run, he was a good tackler and a fine pass receiver.

During his junior year he worked hard to dodge and move his hips away from a tackler. He scored 255 points with 36 touchdowns and 39 points after touchdowns.

Harold was a good student, but his interest in athletics was uppermost in his mind. He played basketball and was selected for All-Sectional honors. As a trackman, he ran the 100 and the 220. He ran the 100 in 10 seconds. He broad jumped 23 feet, and he high jumped about 6 feet. In the class "B" division of the State Meet, he won the 100, 220, and broad jump in successive years. When the Little Seven Conference was organized, he won six events and made several records that were to stand for almost twenty years. Harold was fond of baseball and played every position on the team.

In his last year at Wheaton, he had another very successful season. Wheaton had a fine team and lost only one game to Scott High School of Toledo. Early in this game he was kicked in the head and remained unconscious for forty-eight hours.

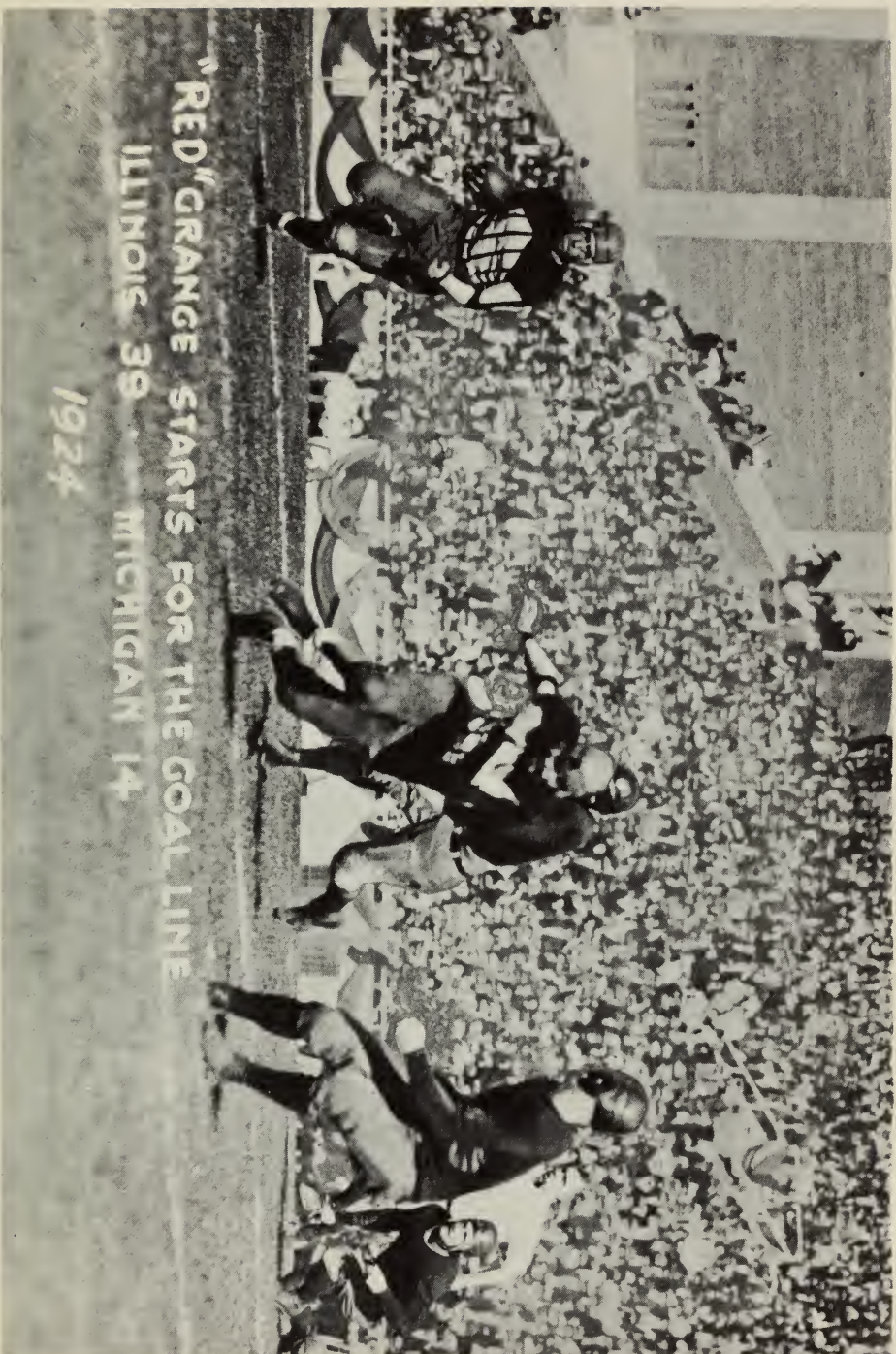


THE KICKOFF
Illinois-Michigan 1924
Whitman



During his high school days Harold and Garland lived with their father above the store doing their own housework. Harold did the cooking and Garland did the shopping. The boys took turns washing and wiping the dishes, and cleaning the house. Mr. Grange was busy with his police duties but devoted all the time he could spare to his boys. He took interest in their school work and athletic activities. He never missed a game in which they were participating. Shortly before Harold graduated from Wheaton, he was visited by some gentlemen from Michigan who came to interest him in their University. Although having confidence in his own athletic ability, he was thrilled to think that he was considered good enough to be material for Michigan. However, there was no way to finance his attendance at an out-of-the-state institution, so he gave up all thoughts of Ann Arbor. When he went to Champaign to take part in the State High School Interscholastic Track Meet, he met Coach Robert C. Zuppke. He knew of Zuppke's great reputation, and he was surprised to find Zup a plain, simple, warm, and friendly man. Zup encouraged him and told him that he thought he could make the Illinois team. To this day, Harold Grange regards that meeting as one of the most eventful in his life. George Dawson was a boyhood friend and playmate of Harold in Wheaton. He was captain of the first high school football team on which Harold played. George played football at Illinois and, consequently, talked about Illinois to Harold on every possible occasion. Despite the talk of Michigan, Dawson convinced Harold and his father that the school for Harold was Illinois. Finally, and the most important reason for his matriculation at Champaign was the fact that it was the least expensive school for him to attend.

Although he had made a fine record as a high school athlete at Wheaton, there were no inducements offered to him by Illinois or any other university.



"RED" GRANGE STARTS FOR THE GOAL LINE

ILLINOIS 39 MICHIGAN 14

1924

GRANGE RUNNING TOWARD RIGHT SIDE LINE
MELLWAIN TAKES OUT THE PLAYER TO THE RIGHT
GRANGE CUTS AROUND SECOND MICHIGAN MAN
Note distance from which Mellwain starts his block



In the Fall of 1922 Harold Grange set out from Wheaton for Champaign with an old second-hand piece of luggage and a very small wardrobe. He had one suit of clothes, an extra pair of pants, and a sweater, together with miscellaneous clothing. His total wardrobe did not aggregate \$50 in value. No famous athlete ever experienced a more unceremonious reception at college. His good friend George Dawson took him to Zeta Psi Fraternity house, where he was pledged. In due course he entered the College of Liberal Arts.

Grange planned to try out for basketball and track. However, the boys at the Zeta Psi house urged that he go out for football. He thought that he was too light for football because he weighed only 166 pounds. The boys insisted, so he reluctantly acquiesced.

When he reported for practice on the freshman varsity field, he saw a swarm of big, husky freshmen. He was sure that he was out of his class so he did not apply for a uniform. When the boys at the Zeta Psi house learned of what had happened, they took the young man in hand and persuaded him to return to the football field. The next day he decided with forebodings to try it again. He applied for a uniform and received a sweater with the Number 77 on it. He never dreamed how famous this Number 77 would become. He was surprised to find that although most of the players were heavier and stronger, he could handle the ball as well and run faster than any of them. Soon he commenced to feel at home, and after a week he was placed on the first string team.

This freshman team was one of which any university might have been proud. "Moon" Baker was at quarterback, Britton at fullback, Grange at left halfback, and Paul Cook at right halfback. In addition, the team had a fine line including stars like Frank Wickhorst.

In the first game against the varsity, Grange returned a punt 60 yards for a touchdown. Jim McMillen, captain of the varsity, says that Grange ran through the varsity for a couple of scores almost everytime they practiced, and it got a little monotonous.



D

uring his freshman year there was little social life for Harold Grange. He could not afford to have dates, and the first party he attended was a fraternity party. The boys in the house saw to it that he had a date. This was his only date that year. George Dawson says that Grange was one of the most popular men who ever belonged to Zeta Psi and fit in remarkably well with all the other boys.

During the summer young Grange worked as an iceman again. He had learned how to swing a hundred pound cake of ice to his shoulder—a trick that requires not only considerable strength and agility but considerable skill. The housewives liked him. However, occasionally he ran into difficulties for tracking up the kitchen floor. His work as an iceman helped to build up his shoulders and legs and hardened him for tough physical contact. He also earned the money that he would need for school the following year.

When he reported for practice in 1923, he asked for the Number 77 because he felt it had been lucky for him as a freshman. In Spring practice Zuppke had worked the boys hard on fundamentals but had given no indication as to whom he might have on his first team. Consequently, Grange was delighted on Saturday, October sixth, to find himself in the starting lineup against the great Nebraska team on old Illinois field. This Nebraska team was made up of probably the most famous players Nebraska has ever assembled. It included Lewellyn, Noble, Ed Weir, and Rhodes. This Nebraska team had beaten Notre Dame the year before and went on to win from the "Four Horsemen" later in 1923. This was Grange's introduction to big-time football. From the first minute he flashed like a star. His first touchdown was on a wide end run. When he found that he could score against a big team, it gave him confidence. Nebraska appeared to be stunned. Grange ran for three touchdowns, the most spectacular of which was a 60 yard run from the safety position after receiving a punt. Football experts everywhere were surprised at the performance of this new halfback. Eckersall's headline in the Chicago Tribune read "Grange Sprints to Fame."



In his second game he made several long runs and two touchdowns against Butler.

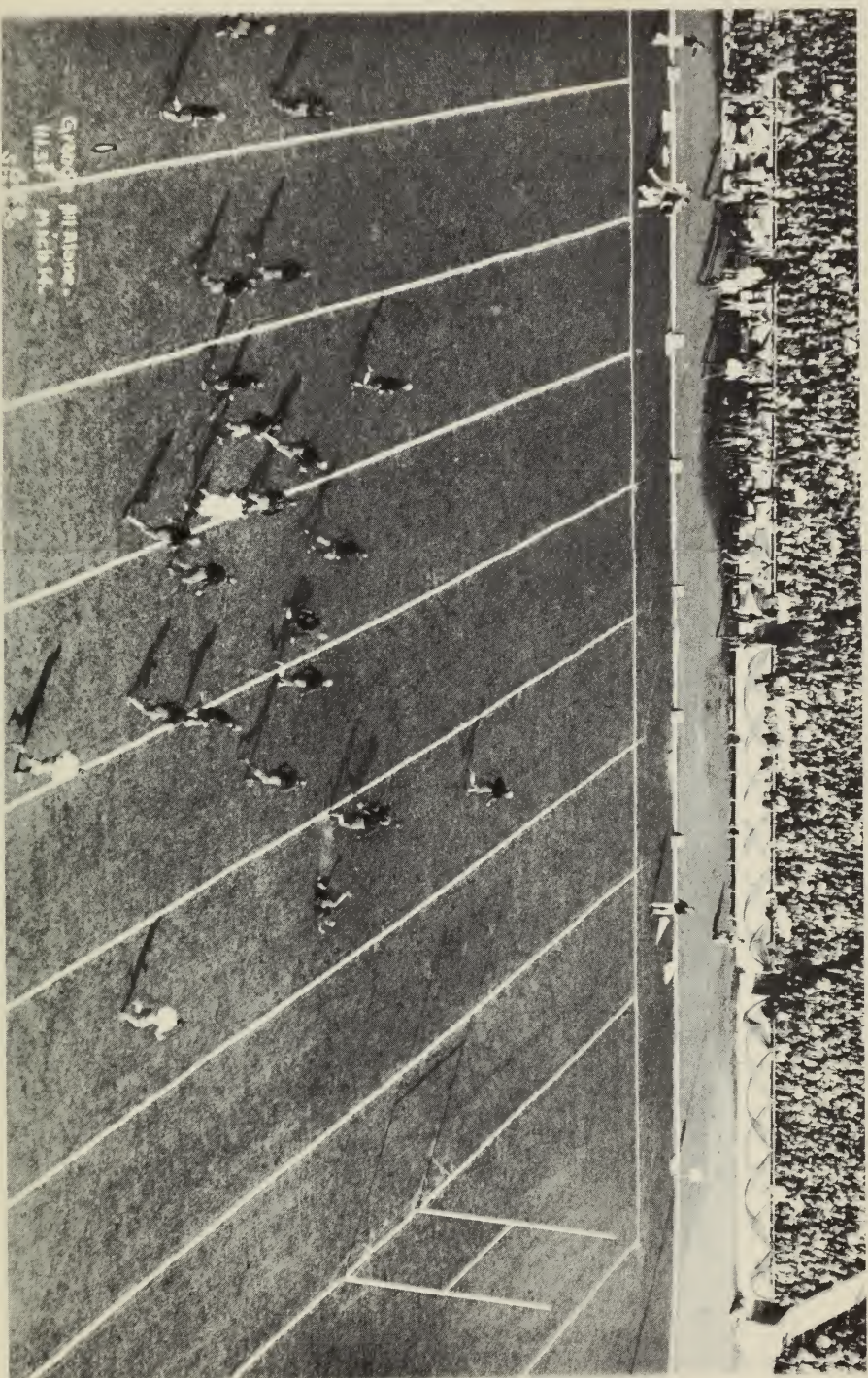
The next game was against Iowa. With only five minutes left to play, the score was Iowa 6, Illinois 3. The ball was on the Illinois 19 yard line, 81 yards from a touchdown. Grange took four passes from Britton and then ran around end for a touchdown, Illinois 9, Iowa 6.

Illinois played Northwestern at Cubs' Park. In the first quarter Northwestern was threatening the Illinois goal when Grange intercepted a forward pass on the Illinois 10 yard line and ran 90 yards through the whole Northwestern team for a touchdown. The newspapers commenced to refer to Red as the "galloping ghost," a designation that will always be connected with him.

Chicago had a great team. Before meeting Illinois, Chicago had won four straight games. The Chicago-Illinois game was played on November third at the opening of the Illinois Memorial Stadium. Grange's first flash was a 62 yard run to Chicago's 23 yard line after intercepting a forward pass. In the third quarter he ran around end from the 27 yard line for a touchdown, but the play was called back because the referee ruled that he had stepped out of bounds on the 7 yard line. Red went around end again for a touchdown. Britton kicked goal, and the score ended 7-0. This was Chicago's only loss in 1923.

After the Chicago game, Wisconsin came to Illinois with Marty Below, Russ Irish, and Taft. Red made one touchdown and set up the field goal for Britton, who kicked to win 10-0. In the second quarter Grange was shaken up by the hard tackles and remained out of the game during the second half. Marty Below says, "I have often said that if Grange were playing today—with the wide open offense that is used now—they never would stop him because he also was a great pass receiver."

A week later Illinois played Mississippi A. and M. Grange and Hall did not play, and Britton and McIlwain played only a quarter. Illinois won 27-0.



ILLINOIS - MICHIGAN 1924

Grange went around right end almost to the right side line and then cut back diagonally across the field. While he was on his zigzag course, Britton, the wing back, had completed his assignment and had run straight down the field catching up with Grange, where he blocked out the last Michigan man. Britton is seen lying on his back on the 12 yard line. The Michigan man that he blocked is the closest



T

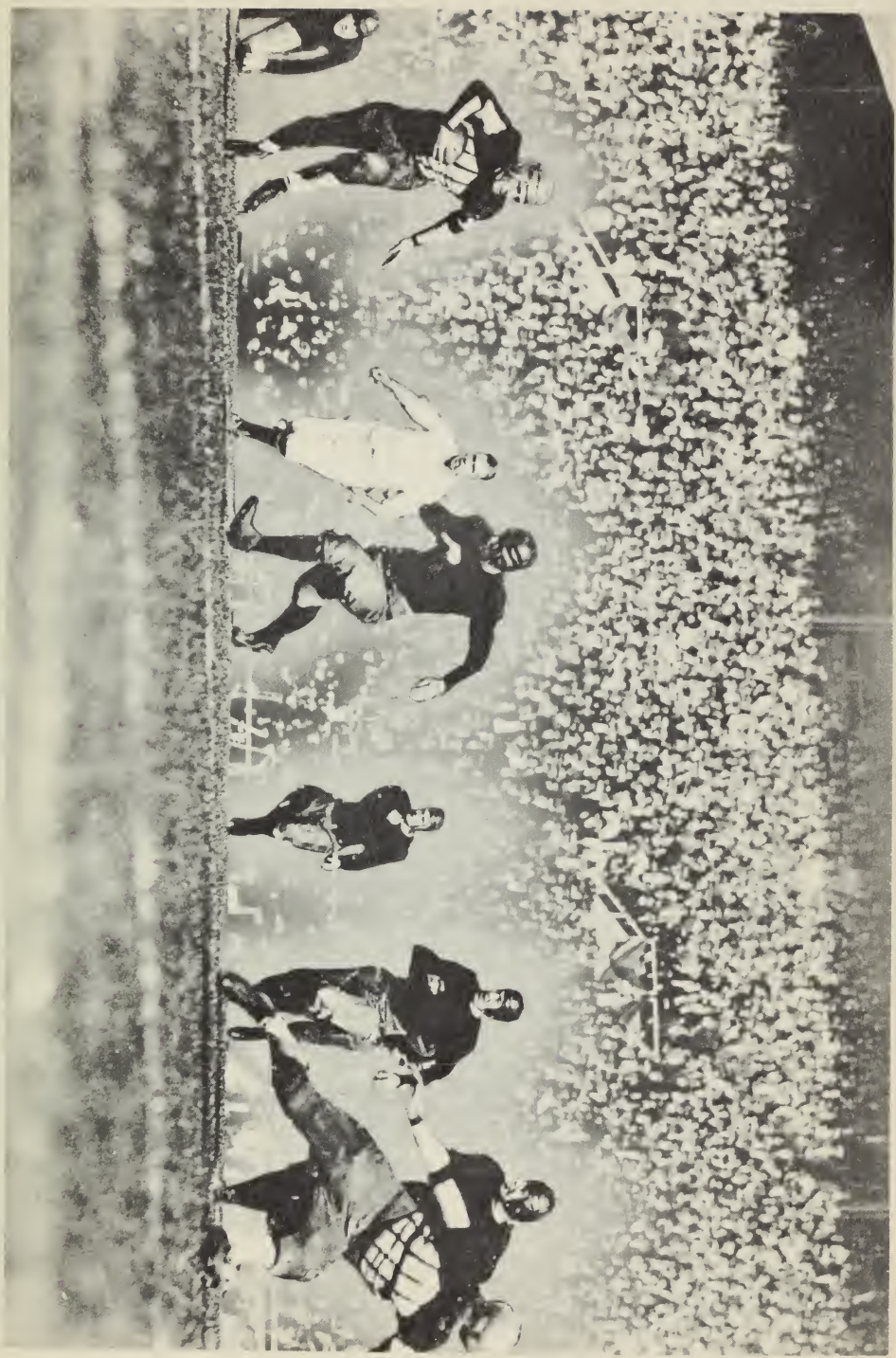
he last game of the 1923 season was at Columbus. Ohio State had a fine team with Workman and Klee. Ohio kept Illinois from scoring for three quarters. On every play several Ohio players hit Grange. Windy Miller, an Illinois tackle, had several altercations with Ohio players, and Captain Jim McMillen was afraid that Miller would draw some serious penalties. He warned Miller, but finally Windy threatened to take on the whole Ohio team. Jim says that he was about to send Miller from the game when Grange interceded and told Miller, "I feel something is going to happen. Go back and just worry that one man in front of you." Grange ran 34 yards for a touchdown. The final score was Illinois 9, Ohio State 0.

Illinois tied with Michigan for the Conference championship.

Grange had become a marked man. Coaches had begun to set up special defenses to stop him. In many games one or two players were designated to take him out of the play. Of course, the gruelling treatment gave Grange considerable pounding, and it was only his superb physical condition and unconquerable spirit that made it possible for him to withstand it.

People everywhere began to talk about him and even the skeptical experts were interested enough to come to see him play. Grange's long runs received a great deal of publicity. The Illinois students and alumni began to get the feeling that Grange could do anything because he never seemed to fail. Newspapers all over the country were writing about him and his long runs. He was compared to all the greats of football. Everyone wanted to see Grange play.

Harold Grange had reddish-brown hair. His football teammates commenced to call him Red. Thus probably the most famous name in football was created. From that time on he was "Red" Grange.



GRANGE STARTING FOR A TOUCHDOWN
McILWAIN BLOCKING
Illinois-Michigan 1924
From the McIlwain Collection



W

alter Camp selected Grange for his 1923 All-American team. Walter Camp made the following comment:

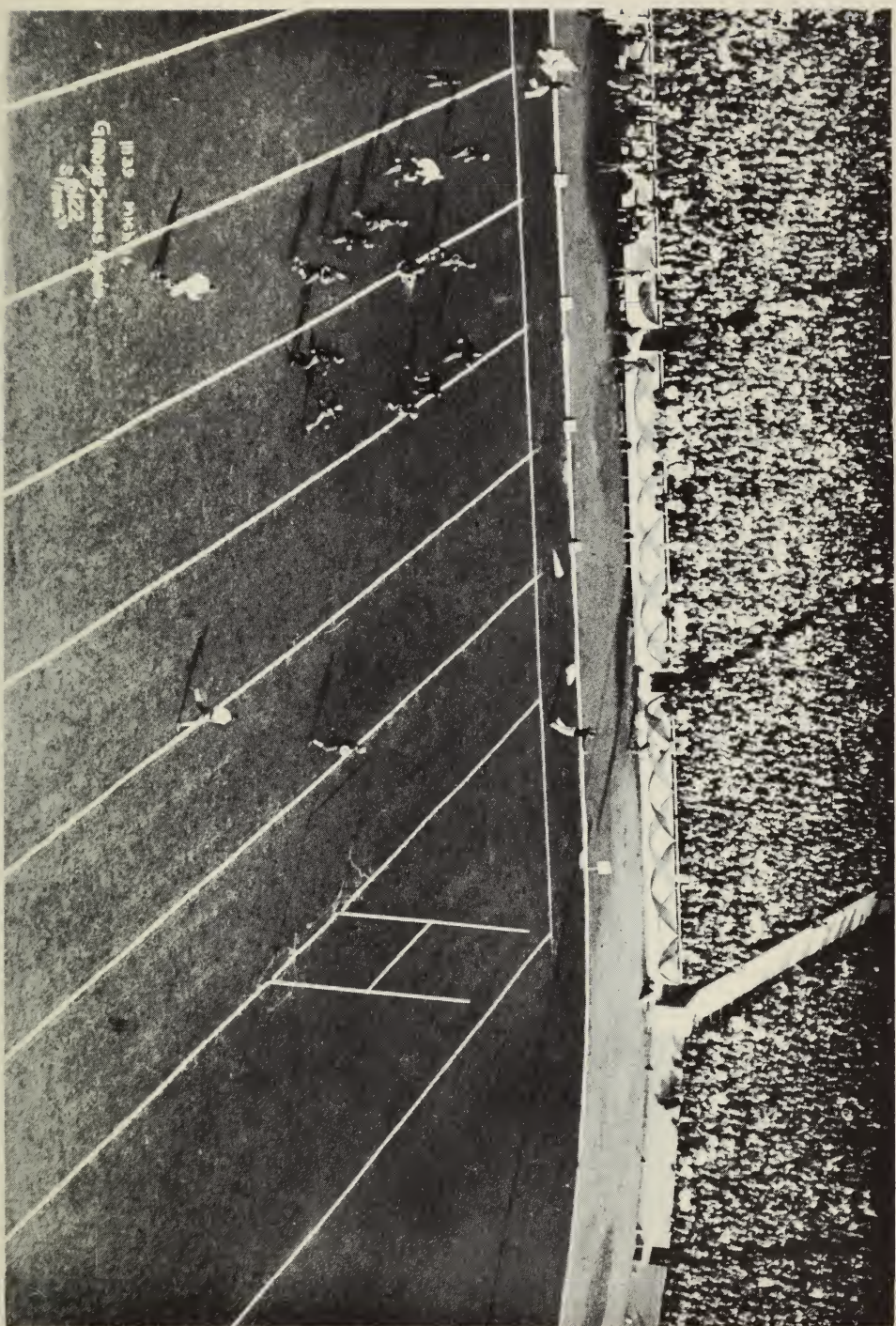
" . . . Grange of Illinois is the star backfield man of the Middle West Conference, and that means traveling in high class. Grange has been the terror of Zuppke's opponents at all times, and when needed in critical moments has made good with the needed runs. We should put some of the forward-passing upon our other backfield men and reserve Grange for the long runs and plunging that break the hearts of the opponents . . . "

Practically every football writer in the country placed Grange on his All-American team. However, the Michigan Daily placed Grange on its second team.

In the Spring Zup commenced to prepare for Michigan and talked about Michigan constantly to the boys. During the summer while Grange was continuing his career as an iceman, he received letters from Zuppke discussing the coming game with Michigan. Also, Zuppke had Grange practice forward passing during the summer to increase his effectiveness.

Illinois commenced the 1924 season with Grange running true to form. He continued his long runs against Nebraska and Butler. Steger says that Yost personally scouted Illinois and reported to the team that all Grange could do was run. When Zuppke heard of this comment he made one of his famous retorts, "All Galli Curci can do is sing."

The 1924 Michigan-Illinois game is one of the famous games in football history.



GRANGE FREE FOR A TOUCHDOWN

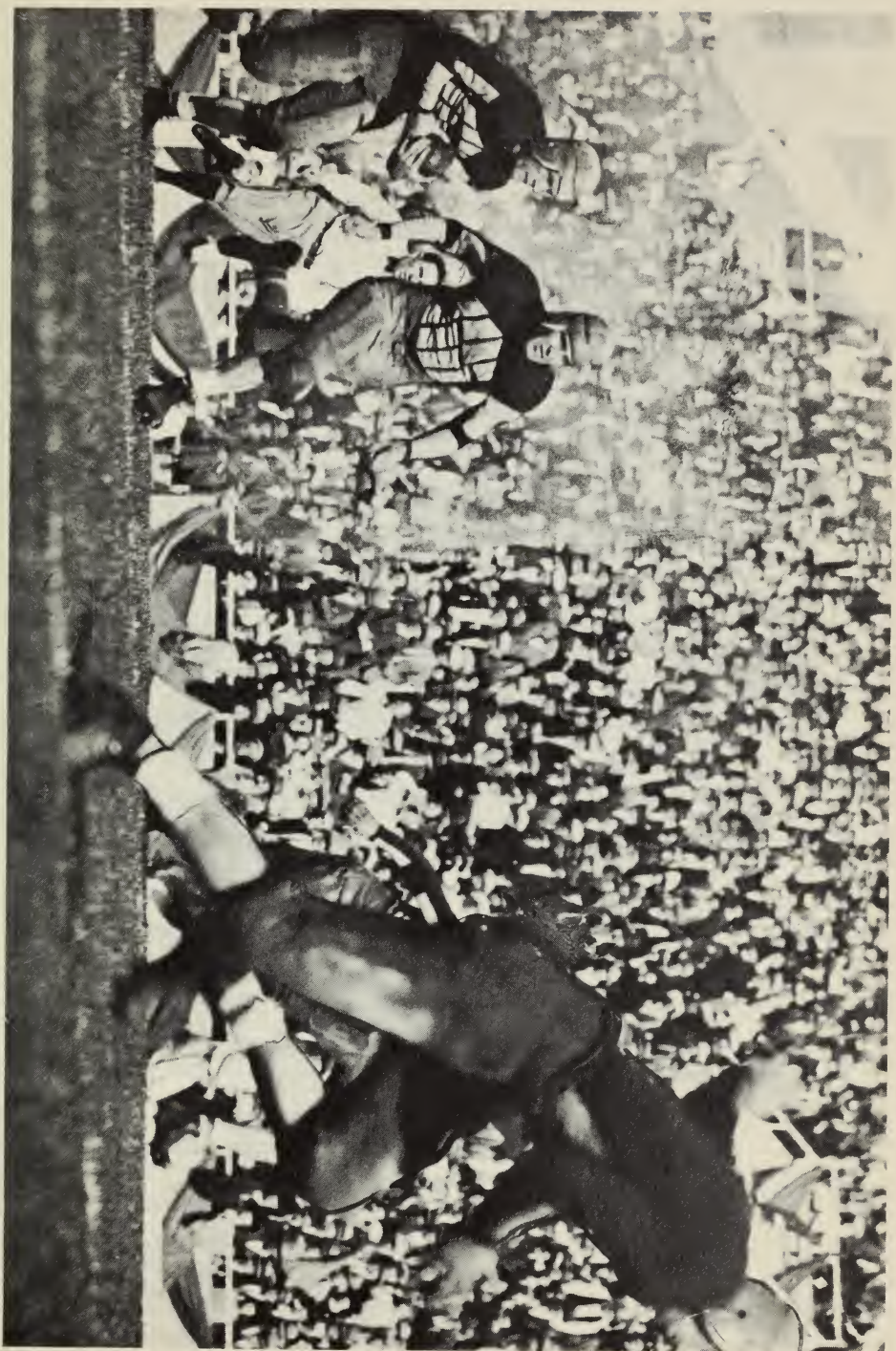
Illinois-Michigan 1924



In 1923 Michigan and Illinois had tied for the Conference championship, but the schedule did not bring these teams together. Neither team had lost a game in 1923. Michigan had not lost a game in 1922 and had not been defeated in twenty consecutive games. Captain Steger of Michigan had not played in a losing game either in high school or at college. Grange had demonstrated in 1923 that he was an unusual open-field runner. For months before the game the nation was looking forward to this classic encounter. Illinois had completed its new stadium and had selected this day to dedicate it. The game received the largest press coverage of any previous college football game. It was rumored that Walter Camp had come West to see it.

October 18, 1924, was a beautiful day. The weather was warm. The temperature rose above 80 degrees. In the Illinois dressing room the team had received its last instructions and was awaiting the signal to run out on the field. The Michigan team had been on the field going through signal drill and then returned to the dressing room to await the start. The new stadium was packed with thousands more clamoring for admission.

Zup was pacing the floor. Grange was standing alone. He was highly keyed and turned from light conversation. He felt that something was going to happen. Suddenly, Zup ordered the players to remove their stockings. The players were astonished. This was unorthodox and some of the players began to worry about having their shins barked. Illinois ran out on the field with their glistening white legs shining in the bright sunlight and commenced to run through signal drill. Michigan came out on the field and started to go through signal drill. Suddenly Michigan stopped its drill and gazed in wonderment. The people in the stands stood up in amazement. Yost came over and examined the players to see if any lubricant had been applied to the legs. As Illinois pranced around on the field, the Michigan players began to feel that their heavy wool stockings were holding them back.



GRANGE AND LEONARD WITH HALL IN THE FOREGROUND
Illinois-Michigan 1924
United Press



Illinois won the toss and chose to defend the North goal. Michigan had the choice then of kicking or receiving, and elected to kick. The teams lined up for the kickoff. The air was tense. The feeling was contagious and the spectators stood up in the stands. Rockwell, Michigan's great back, and Grange were the Conference's leading scorers. Grange stood back in the center near the goal posts. Captain Steger of Michigan had been instructed by Yost to kick to McIlwain. McIlwain stood to the right of Grange with Hall on Grange's left and Britton in front of Grange. The historic strategy was to kick to Illinois and stop them at the start. Michigan had a great defensive team. In over two years only four touchdowns had crossed its goal line.

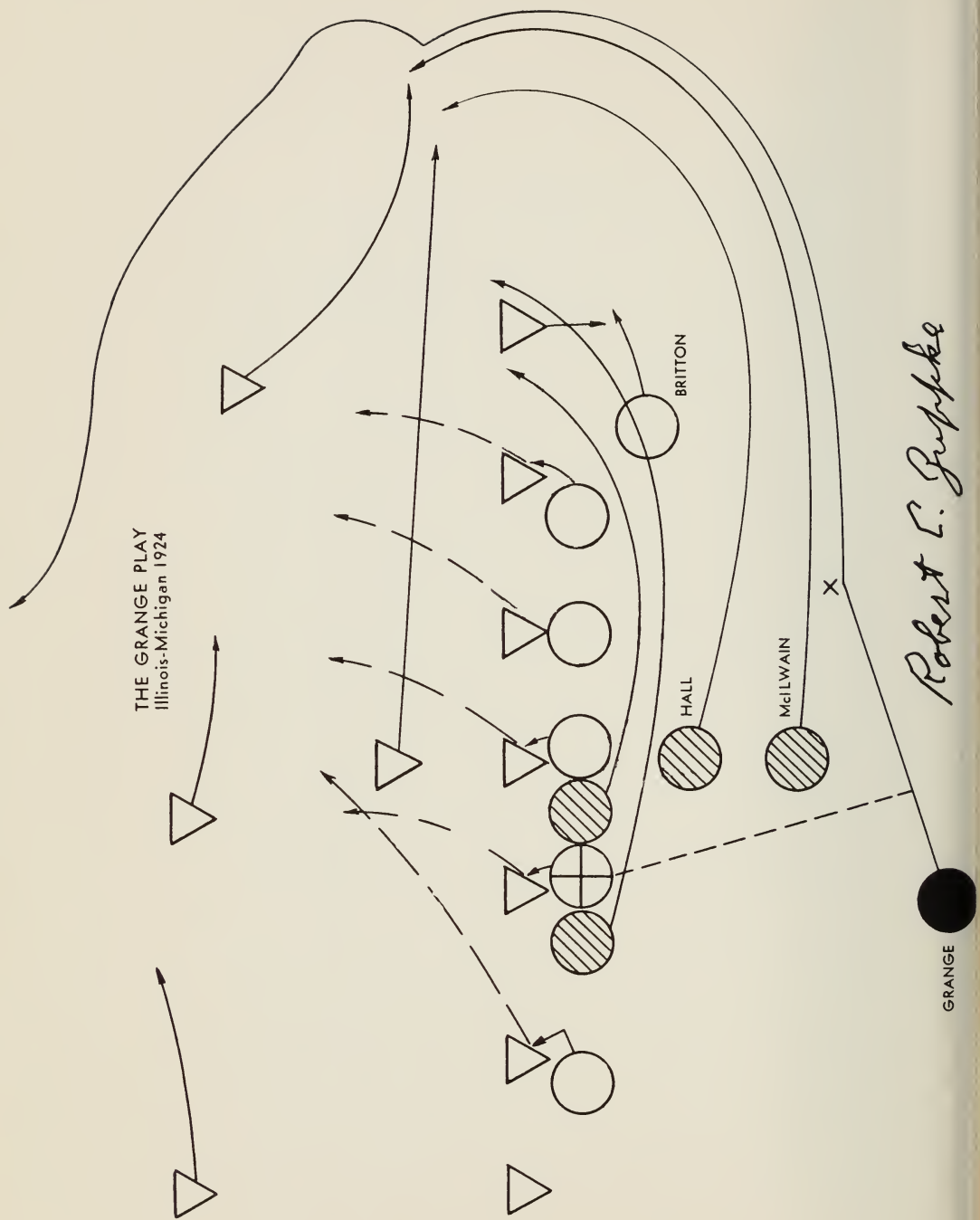
Steger kicked off. McIlwain thought the ball was coming to him and started to run for it and then saw the ball sail toward Grange. He ran over toward Grange. Red called, "I've got it, Wally," as he scooped up the ball almost under the goal posts. McIlwain turned and blocked out the first Michigan man. Britton blocked out the next Michigan man. Red started around to his left. As the Michigan players surged toward him, he cut to his right toward the side line to avoid a tackler and then cut back again to the left. He ran diagonally across the field through the oncoming Michigan players. Suddenly he emerged alone from the mass of players about the middle of the field at the 40 yard line. McIlwain remembers that after he blocked out his man, he looked up and before he could get on his feet, Red was already at the 50 yard line. Red increased his stride as he sprinted down the field rather close to the left side line, crossing the goal line to the left of the goal posts. Rockwell, the safety man for Michigan, had come forward and found himself behind Grange. Rockwell made a futile dive for Grange at the 20 yard line, but Red was safely out of reach. The whole play was so sudden and unexpected that everyone was overwhelmed. Red recalls that when he reached the Michigan 30 yard line, the thought came to him that it would be a shame after getting so far not to make a touchdown.

S

teger kicked off again to Grange who was playing in front of the Illinois goal posts, but Red fumbled. He recovered, however, and was downed on the 20 yard line. Illinois was penalized for the use of hands. McIlwain plunged for 3 yards. Britton immediately punted, but his kick was short and high. Michigan took the ball on the Illinois 36 yard line. Steger then executed a neat pass to Miller for 9 yards. Miller plunged for a first down on the Illinois 24 yard line. Steger made two yards through the middle of the line. Michigan tried another pass, but it was incomplete. Rockwell fumbled on a fake placement formation and Brown of Illinois recovered on about Illinois' 30 yard line. McIlwain hit the line for one yard. On the second play Red took the ball and with McIlwain blocking ran around left end. He cut back to the right and then ran straight down the center of the field for another touchdown. Now there was excitement! The first touchdown was something that could happen in any football game, but against a strong opponent this halfback had repeated his performance and with apparent ease. Harold Johnson in The Chicago American reported this touchdown run as 75 yards. Warren Brown and James Crusinberry wrote that the run was 67 yards.

Steger kicked off for the third time. After a few plays in the line and an exchange, the ball was on the Illinois 44 yard line. Again on the second play Red carried the ball to the right. The Michigan end crashed in and was trapped by Britton. Red and McIlwain ran wide, McIlwain blocking out the halfback. Red ran to the side line and cut back diagonally across the field, leaving the Michigan team to his right. When he reached the center of the field he headed for the goal line. His stride seemed to lengthen and slow down. At about the 15 yard line Britton caught up to him and took out the last Michigan tackler. James Crusinberry and Warren Brown reported this run as 56 yards.

THE GRANGE PLAY
Illinois-Michigan 1924



Robert C. Gupke

GRANGE

In the Grange formation Zuppke played Grange about $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards deep. The normal depth is 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards. On account of Grange's speed, he could be placed back further. This depth allowed Grange to run fast and still make use of his interference. It also allowed him to make some deceptive moves. Because of this depth, he could run very fast and still not outrun his interference.

Grange always ran to a point "x" in the direction of the defending end. The end must then declare himself. If the end moved out, Grange would slant inside. If the end came in, Britton would trap him and Grange would run out around. If the end strung out, Britton would slant back on the tackle, and Hall would get the end. McIlwain, running with Grange, would block the halfback or nearest tackler as the case might be. The guards tried to take care of the roving center and fullback.

After the initial block the line men ran forward and cluttered up the field and if Grange was still on his feet, he would reverse the field and use them for interference.

Of course, there are many variations to this play, for example, in some instances Britton and the wing back exchanged places with Hall or whomever played in the quarterback's position. Various tactics in the execution of the same play kept the end confused.

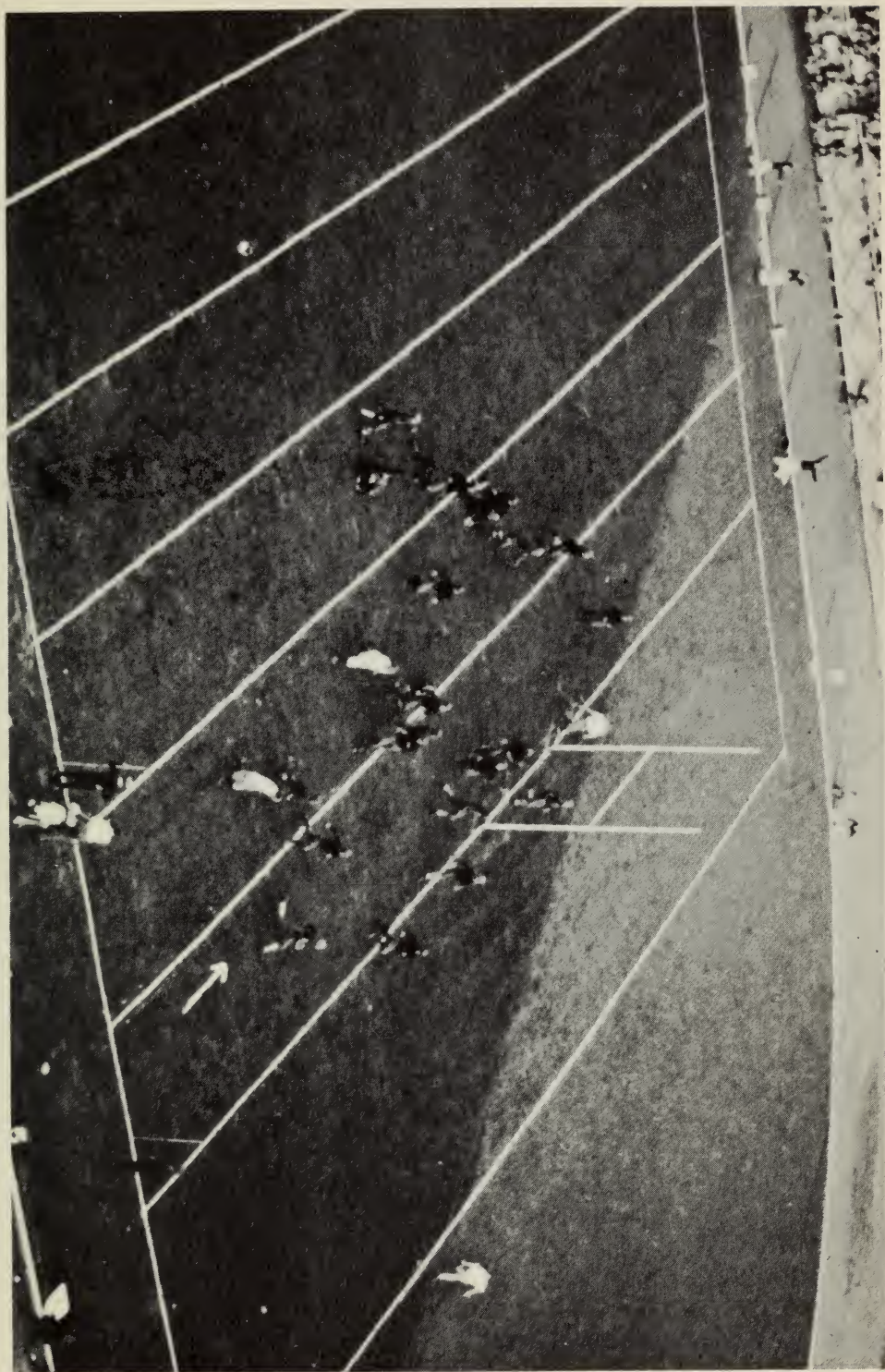


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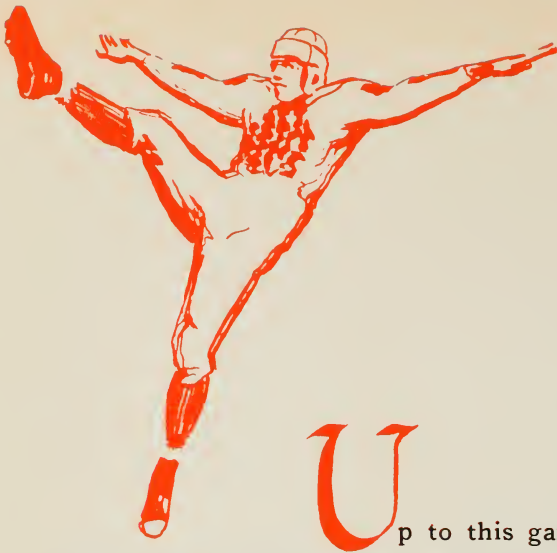
aptain Steger kicked off over the goal posts, and Illinois took the ball on the 20 yard mark. Red tried the line and was thrown for a loss. The Michigan team was frantic. Britton punted to Rockwell who fumbled, and Captain Rokusek of Illinois recovered on Michigan's 44 yard line. On the first play Red ran to the right, and the Michigan end crashed in and was trapped. Red ran almost to the side line and in the same cut-back maneuver reversed his field, eluding tacklers, then ran to the center of the field and to his fourth touchdown.

Less than twelve minutes had passed since the first kick-off. Red had run 95, 67, 56, and 44 yards for touchdowns. It is almost impossible to imagine. Michigan was no setup. Here was a major opponent of championship caliber being introduced to a phenomenon. Of course, the team had been pointed for this game and was keyed to a high pitch. Every Illinois man executed his assignment to perfection. The Illinois backs, McIlwain, Britton, and Hall, played brilliantly.

Harry Hall, the Illinois quarterback, called time out. When Matt Bullock, the Illinois trainer, came out on the field with the water bucket, he asked Red how he felt. Red answered, "I'm all in. You better get me out of here." There were only three minutes left in the first quarter, so Zup sent Gallivan in to replace him. Needless to say, Red received a tremendous ovation from all of the people in the stadium as he left the field. When he reached the bench, Zup in his inimitable way said to him, "Red, you should have had another touchdown." However, Zup was truly proud of his great halfback and the work of his team.



GRANGE RUNNING FOR HIS FIFTH TOUCHDOWN
Illinois-Michigan 1924



Up to this game Grange had followed the customary pattern with fast ball carriers, that is, to run around the end and then straight down the field. Zup had taught Red to cut back and reverse his field, which maneuver proved so baffling. It gave him full use of his interference and scattered the opponents so that he could dodge through them. It also gave the blockers a chance to complete their assignments and then go down field and help Grange. Harold Johnson in *The Chicago American* and Fred Hayner in *The Chicago Daily News* reported that on the second touchdown Red ran around Michigan's right end which was Illinois' left end. It is Red's and McIlwain's recollection that he ran around left end. However, the only motion picture films available show all touchdowns made around to the right.

Grange did not play in the second quarter. Steger made a touchdown and Rockwell kicked the extra point. At the half the score was Illinois 27, Michigan 7.

Zuppke put Red back in the game in the third quarter. Red threw three forward passes for 18 yards and carried the ball for 85 yards more. With the ball on the 12 yard line, Red ran to the right. Marion, the Michigan left end, played wide. Leonard, who was playing in McIlwain's place, blocked out the end. Red cut in and ran straight to the goal line to the right of the goal posts. Britton missed the kick for the extra point. At the end of the third quarter, the score was Illinois 33, Michigan 7.

During the fourth quarter Red threw a pass to Leonard for another touchdown. Britton missed the kick and the score was 39-7. Steger went over for a touchdown and Rockwell kicked the extra point. The final score was Illinois 39, Michigan 14.

PART TWO
SPORTS
MARKETS
REAL ESTATE

Chicago Sunday Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

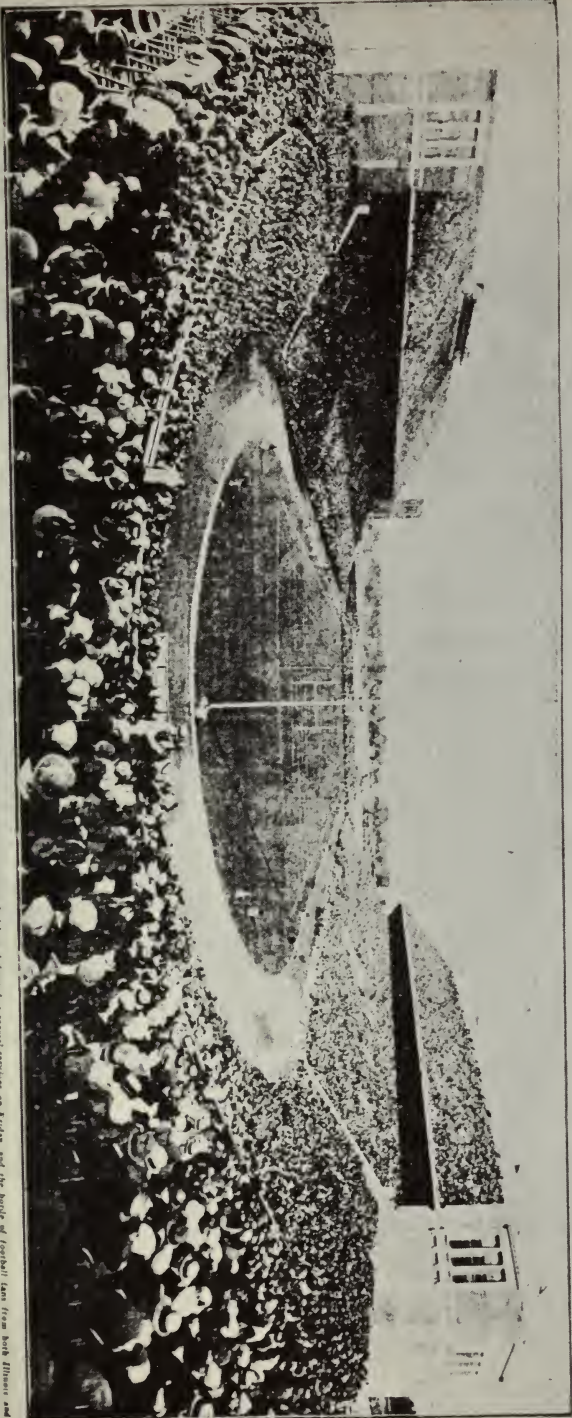
10 PARTS	
1. Chicago	2. Sports
3. Markets	4. Real Estate
5. News	6. Features
7. Classified	8. Advertising
9. Index	10. Misc.

OCTOBER 19, 1924.

ILLINOIS BURIES WOLVERINES 39 TO 14

MAROONS VICTORS; GOPHERS THE BADGERS; PURPLE LOSES

AMONG THOSE PRESENT BESIDES "RED" GRANGE WERE 67,000 FOOTBALL ROOTERS



A panoramic view of the mammoth new University of Illinois stadium at Champaign, where the subjects of Illinois football battles met. The new stadium had been dedicated at special services on Friday and the hosts of football fans from both Illinois and Michigan and the thousands of annual homecoming students packed it to capacity for yesterday's game. Their visit (2,000 persons, the University record) was to see a football game in the fall.

MAROONS BURY HOOVER

'Boners' Keep

In the Wake of the Nazis

Badgers Earn

GRANGE THRILL'S HUGE CROWD



Thus ended one of the greatest football spectacles of all time. Two great teams struggling before the largest audience that had witnessed a football game in the Middle West up to that time. The sun was setting and the shadows were falling on the big stadium as the last players left the field. The visitors returned to their trains and automobiles, and the Illinois alumni and students filed back to the student district. There was excitement everywhere. Champaign witnessed one of its happiest celebrations. Red Grange was on everyone's lips. The people were still stunned by the superlative running of this great player.

It was almost unbelievable, four touchdowns in less than twelve minutes. As the sun dropped behind the horizon and dusk fell on the huge empty stadium, a lone figure was seen to emerge from the dressing room and walk slowly across the vacant field between the stadium and Champaign. He wore a cap and sweater, and his hands were in his pockets. He seemed not to be in a hurry and not to be anxious to go any place. In the distance could be heard the noise of the singing and cheering fans. He returned to his room by a back door, changed his clothes, and slipped out with one of his friends, avoiding the acclaim and honor that was due him. After a simple meal in an out-of-the-way downtown restaurant, they went to a movie. They returned home when the tumult had subsided and went to bed. This was Red Grange, typical of his modesty and greatness.



The following morning Warren Brown wrote in the Herald and Examiner,

" . . . Before the quarter was over this most amazing runner who has ever trod the gridiron, romped over those chalk marks three times more, in jaunts of sixty-seven, fifty-six and forty-four yards, around left end, around right end, straight down through the middle with the whole pack of the Wolverines snapping futilely at his heels.

. . . After he had gathered in his fifth touchdown, "Red" appeared in a new specialty, a forward passer, and it was directly due to his skill and accuracy in flinging the leather that Leonard was enabled to score in the final period.

. . . All in all, it was a great homecoming for the Illini. They'll have other great ones, to be sure. But the memorial columns of the stadium will be so much dust before they'll ever see another young man run the opposition as dizzy as "Red" Grange did here today . . ."

Later Coach Stagg wrote,

" . . . In twelve minutes he scored four touchdowns against the mighty Michigan machine, the most spectacular single-handed performance ever made in a major game . . ."



After the Michigan game the excitement at Champaign subsided temporarily. The students were confident that their team was unconquerable. Captain Steger of Michigan was lauded by the Illinois students when the Illinois players reported that Steger had arched his body over Grange when he tackled him so as to protect him from injury in the pile ups.

Illinois then played De Pauw. Zup gave Red a rest, and he was not required to play in that game.

The following week Illinois won from Iowa 36-0. Red made two touchdowns and threw several passes. Experts everywhere commenced proclaiming Red the greatest ball carrier of all time.

After defeating Michigan 39-14 and Iowa 36-0, Illinois was regarded as a tremendous favorite over Chicago. Chicago had defeated Brown, Indiana, and Purdue, and was held to a tie by Ohio State. In a practice game they had been set back by Missouri. Chicago had lost only one Conference game in 1923 and that one to Illinois. There was an unheard of demand for tickets to see the game, and the Illinois fans alone would have taken up the entire Chicago Stadium. Up to the Chicago game, Grange had carried the ball 76 times for 795 yards. Even the Chicago people believed that Illinois would win. The Chicago stands were grimly silent. The Illinois stands were gay and festive. The presumption was that there could be but one outcome.

Chicago had a powerful team and outweighed Illinois by about fifteen pounds to the man. Chicago had three fine plunging fullbacks in McCarty, Francis, and Marks, and a fine plunging back in Harry Thomas. In addition, Chicago had a superior line led by Joe Pondelik. Amos Alonzo Stagg had decided that the best defense against Grange was an offense. Unlike some of the other coaches, he did not concentrate on "stop Grange" but his command was "to get the jump, control the ball, and continue to attack."



Joe Pondelik had a unique perception in diagnosing plays, so Coach Stagg designated him to call the defensive signals in the line. The plan was to keep three players on each side of Grange at all times.

Illinois was without the services of Wally McIlwain, who had suffered a broken right hand, which in addition to his cracked ribs that he carried through the Michigan game, rendered him unfit for service in the opinion of Coach Zuppke. McIlwain wanted to play, but he says that Zup was afraid he might fumble.

Britton kicked off. Hobscheid brought the ball to the 30 yard line. McCarty plunged through the center for 15 yards. Grange brought him down on the Illinois 44 yard line. McCarty smashed the line for 12 yards. He continued his drives with help from Thomas and Kernwein to the 4 yard line, where he fumbled. The Illinois stands were stricken silent.

Britton punted to Abbot who brought the kick back to the 30 yard line. McCarty plunged three times and Kernwein once to bring the ball to the Illinois 19 yard line. Thomas smashed through tackle for four yards and then McCarty continued his plunges for a touchdown. Curley kicked goal, and the score was Chicago 7, Illinois 0. The Illinois fans could not believe what they saw, and the pall that hung over the stadium during McCarty's first drive descended again. Stagg replaced McCarty with Marks. Britton kicked off over the Chicago goal line, and on steady plunges Chicago brought the ball to the center of the field. Thomas, Kernwein, and Marks on successive plunges brought the ball to within six inches of the goal when the first quarter ended. To the spectators Illinois appeared helpless against this relentless attack.

On the first play of the second quarter Thomas made the touchdown and Curley forward passed for the extra point. Chicago 14, Illinois 0. Chicago had 14 points before Illinois had a chance to carry the ball once.



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ow Illinois elected to receive. Hall brought the kickoff to the 25 yard line. Grange rose to the occasion. He ran and passed for most of the distance to the goal for a touchdown. Britton kicked the extra point, making the score, Chicago 14, Illinois 7.

Illinois again elected to receive, and Chicago kicked off to Illinois. Illinois failed to gain, and Britton punted. A forward pass from Thomas to Cunningham and successive plunges by Francis tore through the Illinois line and brought the score to Chicago 21, Illinois 7. The situation was desperate for Illinois and seemed hopeless. The withering attack of Chicago was enough to discourage the Illini backs. The odds were unsurmountable. Then Chicago kicked to Illinois again. Grange heroically carried the ball nine times and caught two passes for a second touchdown. Chicago 21, Illinois 14.

In the second half Zupke changed his defense to a backfield box which seemed to check the Chicago attack. Both teams failed through the line. Illinois tried for a field goal but missed. Chicago failed through the line again and then executed a quick kick over Grange's head. By this time the people in the stands were wild with excitement. On the first play with the ball on the 20 yard line, Grange took the ball around left end and then cut back to the center of the

field with a maze of tacklers diving at him from all directions. He snaked his way down the field for the tying touchdown. Chicago 21, Illinois 21. McCarty had returned to the game and continued on his line-plunging spree. It seemed that everytime he took the ball, he made five yards. On that day he established a reputation as "five yards McCarty" and will always be known as such. During the final minutes of the game, Grange continued his heroic efforts and on one occasion broke loose and after running 51 yards down the field, the referee's whistle blew. Gallivan substituting for Hall was penalized for holding his Chicago opponent. Grange could have easily made a touchdown as there was no one near him but Curley when he was stopped by the whistle. Grange's run was killed. The ball was brought back to the one yard line. Zup has always doubted that Gallivan was guilty of holding. Britton says that Gallivan in blocking his man had rolled over so that he was laying across the man's leg but that he was not holding. Attempts to pass for sufficient yardage were unsuccessful, and Britton was forced to punt as the game ended. During the balance of the game, the play reached the heights of ferocity. The players on both teams struggled with unbelievable courage and strength in an effort to break the tie.

In the last few minutes of the game, occurred one of the most dramatic scenes ever produced on a football field. As the players of both teams lined up, Grange, back in safety position, collapsed from exhaustion and fell forward to the ground. It had been a long game, and the autumn dusk was setting. The people in the stands could see the famous Number 77 on Red's back as he lay there motionless on the ground unnoticed by the other players and the officials. The referee blew his whistle to resume play.



As the players went into their formations, the crowd in the stands arose and let out a resounding yell. The officials and players of both teams rushed to him. As he was picked up by the players, he received a never-to-be-forgotten ovation from the people in the stands. He had performed in Herculean fashion against great odds and had taken terrible punishment from the big, hard tackling and crushing Chicago team. Despite the fact that Illinois failed to win, this game is regarded by many as Red's greatest game.

Walter Eckersall on the following Monday wrote in the Chicago Tribune.

"Harold "Red" Grange the Illinois ace went further to stamp himself as one of the greatest ball carrying backs in the history of football.

It was his long run in the second half which enabled Illinois to tie the score and his general offensive play throughout the game was the outstanding feature of the great battle."

Coach Stagg refers to the Illinois-Chicago game as a Homeric struggle. Coach Stagg says,

" . . . Taken all in all—the expected one-sided victory, the over-shadowing reputation of Grange, the irresistible sweep of Chicago from the kick-off, the tremendous upset in the first quarter, the seasaw in the second quarter, Grange's magnificent response in which he brought the Illinois score from 0 to 21 virtually single-handed, the breathless dead-lock in the final quarter, with both teams narrowly denied the winning touchdown, made it one of the greatest football dramas ever played on any field . . . "



GRANGE COLLAPSES FROM SHEER EXHAUSTION AFTER RUNNING FOR
THREE TOUCHDOWNS AND A FOURTH RUN THAT WAS CALLED BACK

Illinois-Chicago 1924

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alter Camp wrote:

"The Illinois-Chicago game here Saturday was one of the most wonderful football games I have ever seen on any field anywhere. It was worth coming a thousand miles to witness . . .

That streak of concentrated lightning seemed to bear a charmed jacket and a pair of winged shoes, for when he started off around Chicago's end he took anywhere from fifteen to fifty yards and once two-third's the length of the field.

But even that was not enough, for between his running, his marvelous forward passing, to say nothing of the pretty receiving of those passes by his teammates, leaping high in the air above the would-be interceptors, Red Grange soon had the Illinois score up to 14 points, and then after a brief pause to let Chicago feel how glad they were that they had 21, Illinois put over the third touchdown and tied the score.

Now at this time there were a great many even of the Chicago experts and sympathizers who did not believe Chicago could hold the game to a tie, now that these experts had seen what a wonder Grange was. But they reckoned without the final despairing "kick" of which Stagg's men were capable. With heroism unconquerable they battled with a feeling of fear every time the ball went to Grange that he would "run a mile." They still fought desperately and actually in the last few minutes made one more superhuman drive toward winning the game.

Then came Grange once more with the most desperate of all the runs he had made during the afternoon, and right from the Illinois goal he carried the ball out on the left side of the field, throwing off tacklers and bracing himself, not to be thrown out of bounds, and actually ran some fifty yards. But, alas for the Illini hopes, this marvelous run of the Illinois star was called back and Illinois penalized for holding."

The Illinois team, still battered from the rough Chicago game, went to Minneapolis to play Minnesota. McIlwain says that the team was tired out and on the train to Minneapolis the boys were not having fun as was customary on trips but spent their time resting quietly. At the start of the game Illinois flashed some form. The Orange and Blue passed and ran its way right down the field for 58 yards and a touchdown. "The mighty Grange contributed the big portion of that effort." From that point on, Clarence Schutte of Minnesota, a lad just out of obscurity took all the glory.

Although Grange made a touchdown, he says that he was completely bottled up in the game. McIlwain went out of the game with an injured knee. Hall went out of the game in the second quarter with an injured collarbone. The Minnesota team went through the Illinois line at will. This was the first time that Grange was almost completely stopped. In the third period, Red received a severe shoulder injury and was forced to retire from the game. Minnesota won 20 - 7.

Irving Vaughan reported in the Chicago Tribune, "*. . . Grange took a lot of punishment throughout the game, but the play that ended him came when he intercepted a Gopher pass in the third period. He grabbed the ball and started one of his specialties, but somebody caught him and threw him out of bounds on his own 29 yard mark. Somebody else piled on him after he was down, and Minnesota was penalized . . .*"

The last game of the season Illinois won from Ohio State 7 - 0, but Grange did not play in this game because of the injuries he received at Minneapolis.

Despite the fact that he was injured and missed playing in one Conference game, he led the Big Ten in scoring for the second straight year.



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alter Camp selected him again for the All-American team in 1924.

"Harold Grange is the marvel of this year's (1924) backfield. His work in the Michigan game was a revelation, but his performance in the Chicago game went even further when by his play—running and forward passing—he accounted for some 450 yards of territory. He is elusive, has a baffling change of pace, a good straight arm and finally seems in some way to get a map of the field at starting and then threads his way through his opponents."

The football situation looked bad for Zuppke at Illinois in the Fall of 1925. McIlwain, Schultz, Roberts, Miller, Slimmer, Dick Hall, and Rokusek had graduated. Harry Hall, the star quarterback, was still suffering from the injury he received to his collarbone in the Minnesota game and was unable to play. The only regulars were Brown, Muhl, Kassel in the line and Grange and Britton in the backfield. Zuppke was forced to move Britton from fullback to right guard to bring some strength and experience to the line. The squad was composed mostly of green sophomores and substitutes. It was necessary for Zup to build a new team.

The first game of the season was with Nebraska at Champaign, which Illinois lost 14 - 0. The Nebraska team was composed of such great stars as Ed Weir, Rhodes, and Locke.

Illinois lost to Iowa 12 - 10 at Iowa City. Red received the kickoff and ran 85 yards through the whole Iowa team for a touchdown. Nick Kutsch starred for Iowa.

Harry Hall had been unable to play all season because of his injury, and Illinois was without an experienced quarterback. Zup had told Red that he felt that it was necessary for him to act as quarterback and commenced to prepare him accordingly. This did not change his position in the formation but placed upon him the responsibility for directing the team. He learned about the fine points of football strategy from Zup, and he enjoyed his new assignment very much. He played quarterback for the first time against Michigan.

Michigan outplayed Illinois, and Friedman won the game with a 25 yard field goal. Red played a fine game but could not get free for long touchdown runs.

However, the 1925 Illinois team improved from one game to another. Bob Reitsch, the sophomore center, weighed only 150 pounds but developed rapidly, and later was chosen All-American. Zup brought the new team along for the climax at Philadelphia.

One of the greatest games in Grange's career was against the University of Pennsylvania. The previous year Pennsylvania was considered the champion of the East and lost only one game, to California. The 1925 Pennsylvania team was undefeated having beaten Brown, Yale, and Chicago among others. This was one of Coach Louis Young's great teams. The slogan was "Pennsylvania rules the East." However, the East had heard a great deal about Grange. The Eastern newspapers had been full of his exploits for two years, but no one thought that this football player from the Middle West could run against the fine Pennsylvania team.

The game had received a great deal of publicity and a tremendous crowd filled the stadium. Grantland Rice and all of the Eastern writers and experts came to see the spectacle. Illinois had a very unimpressive record having been defeated by Nebraska, Iowa, and Michigan. Illinois had won only one game. They had barely beaten little Butler 16 - 13. However, Zup had been developing his green players and building his team to meet Pennsylvania. A victory over Pennsylvania would make the season a success. On the day of the game Franklin Field was a mess. It had rained and snowed the previous twenty-four hours with only straw to protect the field. The gridiron was a sea of mud.



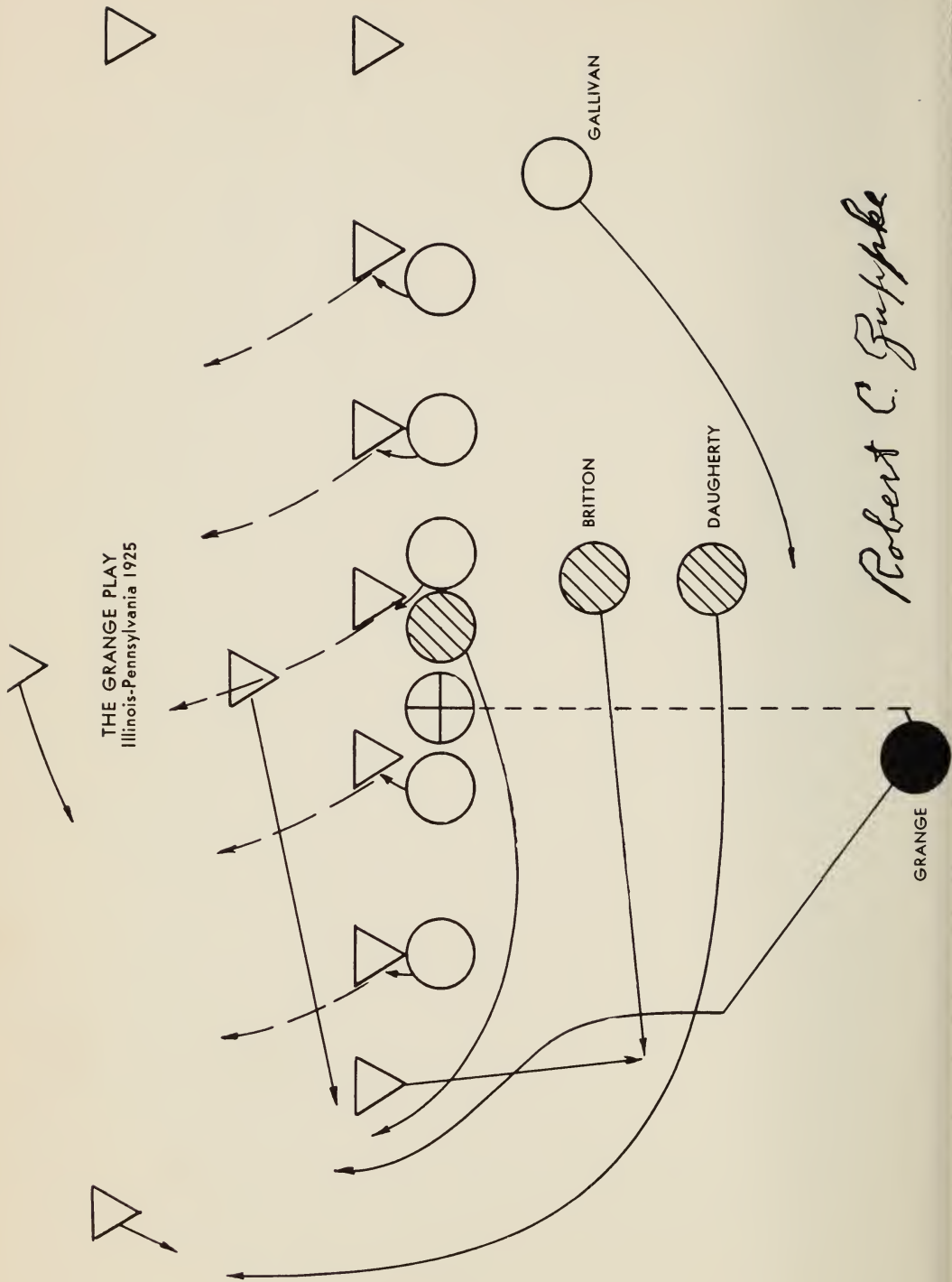
uppke realized that ordinary football strategy would not be sufficient to beat Pennsylvania with this Illinois team. He had learned that Pennsylvania had a tendency to overshift on defense. Grange had been used principally on the strong side in a single-wing offense with an unbalanced line. The pattern had been for Grange to run to the strong side having the advantage of four line men and the backs for interference. Just before the game, Zup instructed Grange to run Britton through the strong side on the first two plays to set the stage. He told Red then to shift the team toward the nearest side line and then take the ball himself around the weak side on the third play. This plan would give Grange more room for open-field running. Following instructions, after returning the ball to the 36 yard line on the kickoff, Grange ran Britton through the strong side on two successive plays. Illinois punted and after Pennsylvania failed to gain, they returned the punt. Illinois had possession of the ball on the 40 yard line. Grange shifted the team to the right according to plan and instead of following the strong side, he took the ball himself to the left on the weak side. Pennsylvania had overshifted to the strong side. Red ran 55 yards for a touchdown and not a single Pennsylvania player touched him. Penn kicked off to Illinois and Red carried the ball 55 yards to the 25 yard line. The playing field was now a quagmire and all the players were covered with mud. It was unbelievable the way Grange could run on that slippery turf. Grange continued to call the weak side plays and mix them with the strong side plays. Each time Pennsylvania would overshift, thus making it easier for Illinois. The Pennsylvania ends following the old eastern system charged directly in on an angle. It didn't take the Illinois backs long to cope with that situation, which made it easier for Grange to run around the ends.

The Illinois team rose to the heights and played beautiful football. Britton played his usually fine game, and Pug Daugherty played the best game of his career. Zup says that Daugherty gained 99 yards in this game. At the half Illinois had scored three touchdowns, and Pennsylvania had only scored two points on a safety.

In the third quarter Illinois scored another touchdown. By this time the Illinois players were having a lot of fun kidding the Penn players about "Ruling the East." Pennsylvania had been rated so highly and in addition, they were pretty cocky because they had defeated Chicago 7 - 0. With the ball on Pennsylvania's 20 yard line, despite the condition of the field, Red called the signal for Zup's flea-flicker play. The team lined up in a place-kick formation. Grange knelt on one knee eight yards behind the center as if he were going to hold the ball for Britton to place kick. Instead of passing the ball to Grange, the center passed it directly to Britton who in turn passed it to the right end, Chuck Kassel. Kassel turned around and made a lateral pass to Grange, who ran about 20 yards to his right and then to the goal line. The play worked perfectly. It was a miracle considering the condition of the field and the muddy, slippery ball. The Illinois players demonstrated a mastery of ball handling. Pennsylvania appeared to be completely demoralized. Grange had a great afternoon under the worst possible conditions. He probably gained more yardage than in any day in his college career. His total gain was 363 yards. Illinois defeated Pennsylvania 24 - 2.

The Eastern fans were shocked at first and then delighted. Red never received such flattering compliments as he was given in the Philadelphia and Eastern newspapers. They came to see Red Grange and they saw him. There was no doubt about it, Grange was the best open-field runner of all time.

THE GRANGE PLAY
Illinois-Pennsylvania 1925



Robert C. Gupphke

This play to the weak side was unusually successful against the strong Pennsylvania team of 1925.

Pennsylvania had the idea that all Grange could do was run to the right. They overshifted to the strong side and crashed their weak side end into our backs. Britton blocked or trapped him, and Daugherty and the right guard took out the defensive backs while Grange ran wide around the weak side. If this end changed his tactics and crashed straight and deep, Britton blocked him out, and Grange with his interference cut up the field inside of the Penn end. On this play the center passed the ball slightly to Grange's right to deceive the defense to step to the right on their initial move a little away from his point of attack. When Grange received the ball, he stooped and touched the ball to the ground and raised it up as if he were going to throw a forward pass. These maneuvers gave his interference time to pass in front of him. In the Penn game the stoop was most effective because it was the first time it was used and also because it hid for a moment Grange's ultimate intentions from the secondary.



A n account of the game was headlined by the Philadelphia Public Ledger,

"'Red' Grange Runs Wild as Illinois Hands Pennsylvania First Defeat, 24 to 2."

The Philadelphia Enquirer wrote as follows:

"Red Terror Blazes in Glory as '77' is Deathblow to Pennsylvania."

Franklin Field Illustrated, the official publication of the Council on Athletics of the University of Pennsylvania on its editorial page of November 7, 1925, said:

" . . . Franklin Field has seen some marvelously fast individual players in the last generation, who have literally 'run wild' against all opposition. Among them were Daly, of Harvard; Stevenson, Hollenback and Mercer, of Pennsylvania; Thorpe and Mount Pleasant, of the Carlisle Indians; Davies, of Pittsburgh; Wilson, of Penn State, and Kaw and Pfann, of Cornell. But greater than all was Captain Grange, of Illinois. Football history does not record a single player who has combined such speed, such uncanny change of pace, and such ability to shake off tacklers as were displayed by Grange . . . "

Also Coach Louis A. Young wrote:

" . . . I want to add my praise to what has already been said and written about 'Red' Grange. He is the best ball carrier I have ever seen. He seemed to do everything right when once that ball was tucked under his arm . . . "

After the Penn game Chicago came to Champaign. It had been raining, and the Illinois field was slick and slippery. The footing made it impossible to run and cut back. The rain came down in sheets so that it was difficult to see across the field. McCarty starred in his familiar role, but the players could not hold the ball, and the game was marked with costly fumbles on both sides. Illinois won 13 - 6.



he following week Illinois played Wabash, and Grange entered the game in the last quarter for three plays but did not carry the ball.

Red Grange ended his college football career in the Ohio Stadium at Columbus before 85,500 people. Illinois won 14 - 9. Although Red did not score a touchdown in this game, his playing was sensational. He ran, forward passed, and received forward passes. One of his passes for 42 yards to Kassel behind the goal line accounted for a touchdown. On his last play of college football, he intercepted an Ohio forward pass to end the game.

Walter Camp had died, but Red was unanimously selected as All-American again.

Zuppke and Grange were an unusually great coach-player combination. There had been many great coach-player combinations including Rockne and Gipp, Yost and Kipke, Warner and Thorpe, Stagg and Eckersall. There is no doubt but that Gipp, Kipke, Thorpe, and Eckersall would have been great under any system and any good coach, but Zuppke and Grange were unique. Zuppke was particularly talented to coach a player of Grange's ability and temperament. This is especially true because Grange attained most of his success as a halfback carrying the ball. There have been football players that have been faster than Grange and yet none of them have been able to perform the feats that Grange performed.

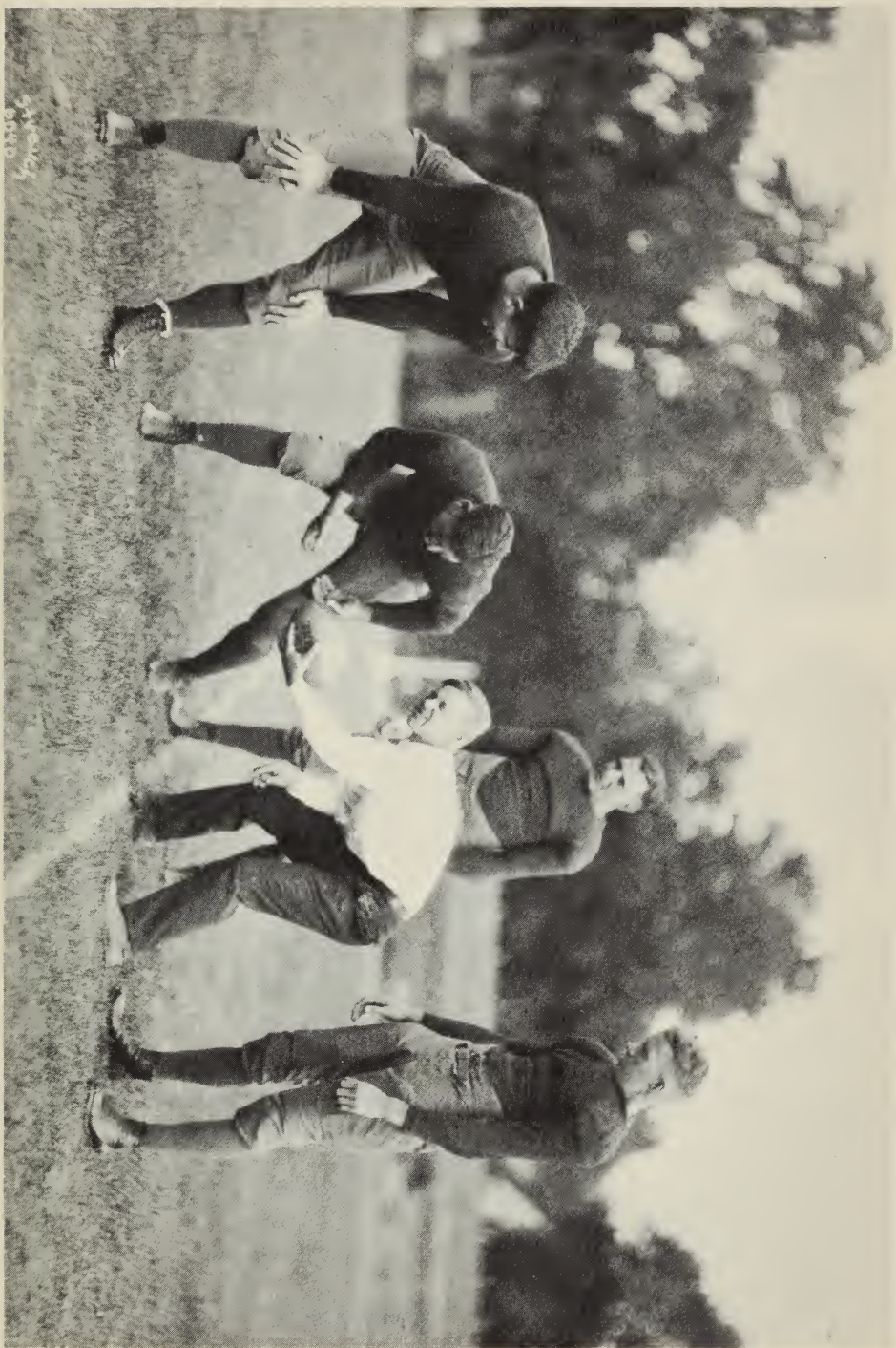
Probably the most outstanding thing "G" Huff did as Athletic Director at Illinois was to bring Robert Zuppke to Illinois. Zuppke had produced some championship teams at Muskegon, Michigan, and at Oak Park, Illinois. The Conference was already a big league and was dominated by coaching giants like Yost, Stagg, and "Doc" Williams. The newcomer being only a high school coach was regarded as an outlander. He was not taken too seriously. His 1913 team was fair but did not impress the experts. However, in 1914 he astounded the coaching fraternity and demonstrated his greatness. This team won the Conference championship with Pogue, Patsy Clark, Bart Macomber, and "Slooie" Chapman.

Illinois had not been known for its football teams. In 1910 Illinois had won the Conference championship, but its teams did not rank with Michigan, Chicago, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Illinois had its scholars and many scientific attainments but was best known as an agricultural school and was referred to as a "cow college." Zuppke's 1914 team put Illinois on the map. Attention was focused on the University and more students began to attend it from Chicago and other places. It no longer was a school merely for Southern Illinois students. Larger appropriations were granted by the Legislature. The prestige of Zuppke's football teams brought scholastic and cultural advantages to Champaign.

Robert Zuppke was not only a great football coach, but he had many other interests as well. His paintings have hung in many galleries. He is an accomplished speaker and toured the country making hundreds of talks to alumni and business groups to raise money to build the Illinois Stadium. Zuppke did more to build this enormous athletic plant than any other individual. He is a great philosopher with a deep insight into human nature. Since retiring from coaching at Illinois, he has maintained his interest in football. George Halas, the father of professional football and one of Zup's students, invites him regularly to the Chicago Bears' training camp for advice and consultation. The big men of football have continued to come to him for ideas and football strategy. Zuppke and Stagg are the last of the old school of football coaches of an era that will never be replaced.

When Grange was playing, Zup instructed his players to go down the field as fast as possible and scatter, thereby causing confusion. He promised to bring Grange up to them and that from there on, Grange would be able to find his way through the scattered defense. There is no doubt but that this strategy was successful as is shown by the photographs.

On the Illinois backfield, Grange, McIlwain, and Britton were dash men. Grange and McIlwain ran the 100 and Britton ran the 440. McIlwain says that on many occasions when he and Grange got around the end, they were going so fast that they disregarded the defensive halfback coming in and kept right on going. There have been many fast backs but most of them lacked a blocker fast enough to keep up with them. McIlwain was fast enough to block out a man and yet stay with Grange. McIlwain frequently blocked out two men.



THE GREAT COMBINATION
Mellwain, Britton, Grange, Hall, and Zupke
From the Mellwain Collection



Iuppke says that McIlwain was the greatest open-field blocker of all time. Red says that McIlwain's speed and accurate blocking made many of his touchdowns possible. Zup and Grange say that McIlwain never received the credit he deserved. McIlwain's chief function was blocker and a decoy for Grange. McIlwain had worked hard on blocking and had developed his blocking to a fine technique. He dove at the player sometimes a yard or maybe two yards away and pushed off with his outside foot, turning his body over toward the player. The man went down like a match stick. McIlwain's momentum made it impossible for the player to stay up and his distance gave him accuracy. Grange says that when McIlwain blocked a man, he stayed blocked. Coaches dream of a blocker like McIlwain but few come forth. Many players shun the punishment of blocking, and few develop it to a fine art.

Britton's blocking contributed greatly to Grange's success, but Britton was a star in his own right as a kicker. His easy-going disposition, while it caused Zuppke many a headache in practice, was a tremendous asset to the team when it was under pressure. So often great kickers do well when the conditions are right, but Britton's finest games were on days when the going was rough or when the field was a sea of mud as in the 1925 Chicago game and the 1925 Pennsylvania game. Against Iowa in 1923 Britton kicked a place kick from the 60 yard mark.

Britton appeared never to take things seriously, and he helped to relieve the tension when the team was on edge. The night before the Michigan game the team was quartered in the country club. The boys were sitting around on their bunks. Grange had a good sense of humor and loved to tease. He walked over to Britton and began to tussle with him on the bunk. Rokusek entered the fray to help Grange. In a few minutes all three of them were wrestling on the floor, and just as Britton was sitting on top of both of them in walked Zuppke. Zup let out a loud yell. "What are you trying to do? Kill the best halfback I ever had?" and he made Britton sit in the far corner of the room.

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range's running has been variously described. He kept his knees high with a long stride that changed pace. He shifted his hips and used a strong, straight arm. Zup says that a good open-field runner must be able to dodge the unseen hand, and Grange could dodge the unseen hand.

McIlwain tells this story to illustrate the elusiveness of Grange. Frequently, to give Leonard experience Zup placed McIlwain on the second team in practice. McIlwain knew where the plays were coming, and he knew exactly where Grange would be on each play. He was determined to stop him. The first time McIlwain dived for Red, Red wasn't there. McIlwain was just a little short. The next time McIlwain was going to be sure to stop him. Just as he dived, Red hesitated and then stepped over McIlwain.

Red Grange is the standard in football excellence. Every-time a new star appears on the football horizon, the coaches and experts compare him to Red Grange. There have been many such stars held temporarily as equal or better than Grange, some even from Grange's Alma Mater. As yet a coach has not been found who would not like to have another Grange. Every football expert has placed Grange on his all-time backfield. George Gipp, Jim Thorpe, and Red Grange constitute the choice of most authorities.

Grange's record is not merely one of statistics of yards won and touchdowns made. Zuppke had no thought of establishing a Grange record. He frequently did not play Grange in games against the smaller schools. Furthermore, even in the Conference games when it was reasonably safe that Illinois would win, he removed Grange from the game. He never risked an injury to his star. The opportunity to build up scores needlessly was not taken. Also the type of strategy used by Zuppke was somewhat different from that ordinarily exercised with a star. He did not save Grange for the strategic play but used him repeatedly in a game on the assumption that sooner or later he would break loose, which he usually did. Of course, this system would not increase Grange's averages but increased his chances to score.

In three years of Conference competition, Grange almost never failed to make long runs and spectacular plays. Red Grange electrified the football conscious nation, and people everywhere wanted to see him play. His consistency of performance is unique in the annals of all athletics. Jack Dempsey rose to great heights but was not able to sustain his performance from one fight to another. Babe Ruth at the height of his success could not sustain his home runs game after game. There have been many great stars in football history, but no football player before or since was so consistent in his playing. He never disappointed the people who expected to see him run. The news traveled across the country by radio, newspaper, and by witness. Red Grange became a national hero. The athletic world had never produced such a popular star.

Grange never had a bad day, and the only games where he was slowed down by his opponents were games on days where the conditions of the playing field due to the weather made running almost impossible, or as in the Minnesota game where he had sustained injuries. He was even great in defeat.

Grange probably demonstrated his true greatness in the Chicago 21 - 21 game more than in any other game because of the fact that he performed against tremendous obstacles. With his team well battered and partly disrupted, he overcame what appeared to be certain defeat, and coming from behind made three touchdowns for 21 points to tie the score.

No man before or since against a major opponent has equaled Red Grange's performance in the Illinois-Michigan game of 1924.

Red Grange was as colorful in personality as he was in a football suit. He was modest almost to a fault. His modesty was never affected by his glory and the acclaim that he received. He was just a grownup, humble boy who had been raised in a motherless home in the flat over a small town store. He never overlooked the factors that made him great—his blockers, McIlwain, Britton, Hall, and the other members of the team, and most important his coach, Robert Zuppke. Red Grange never received any financial assistance at Illinois from anyone. Red Grange took pride in being an athlete. He was a credit to his teammates, to his coach, and to his University.

Grange of Illinois.

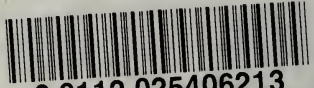
Strong, slender and sinewy . . . with large brown eyes and deep face lines . . . in his dark blue jersey, slick moleskins, and orange helmet . . . nervous, alert, and yet not tense . . . standing alone on the five yard line . . . waiting for the kickoff . . . unmindful of the bumps and bruises to come . . . watching the ball as it sails toward him . . . moving forward to gather it in his arms . . . skillfully following his interference . . . running, weaving, cutting . . . changing pace in phantom fashion . . . snaking through the cluttered open field . . . dodging the unseen hand . . . leaving vanquished tacklers everywhere . . . straight arming and dashing to the goal . . .

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